

Message Text

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62

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 AF-10 ARA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4152

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB

SUBJECT: SUCCESSOR DG FOR ILO

REF: A)PARIS 26363; B)GENEVA 5422

1. SUMMARY: THOUGH GOF HAS NOT YET TAKEN OFFICIAL POSITION ON BLANCHARD CANDIDACY FOR ILO DG, SOCIAL AFFAIRS COUNSELOR BLANCHARD SAYS THAT GOVERNMENT IS "SYMPATHETIC." BLANCHARD LEFT PARIS 18 OCTOBER EN ROUTE US WHERE HE INTENDS TO LOBBY FOR US SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. YVES SABOURET, PRIME MINISTER'S COUNSELOR FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS, CALLED LABATT 18 OCTOBER TO DISCUSS ILO SITUATION IN VIEW OF DEPARTURE FOR US SAME DATE FRANCIS BLANCHARD (REF B). SABOURET MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) GOF HAS NOT TAKEN OFFICIAL POSITION ON QUESTION OF SUPPORTING BLANCHARD'S CANDIDACY FOR ILO DG POSITION, BUT IS SYMPATHETIC
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TO IT . GREAT DEAL DEPENDS ON ASSESSMENT OF HIS CHANCES OF

BEING ELECTED.

B) ROGER LOUET, FORMERLY OF FORCE OUVRIERE AND ALTERNATE MEMBER OF ILO GB (NOW DIRECTOR GENERAL EEC SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE) TOLD SABOURET THAT, ON BASIS OF RECENT CONTACTS IN GENEVA, HE HAS CONCLUDED THAT ILO NEEDS SUITABLE PERSON FROM WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION TO BRING IT TOGETHER AND GIVE STAFF SENSE OF PURPOSE AND DIRECTION. NOW IS NOT THE TIME, IN LOUET'S OPINION, TO BRING OUTSIDER TO HEAD ILO. LOUET FELT, SAID SABOURET, THAT BLANCHARD IS BEST CANDIDATE FROM WITHIN ILO, AND HAS GOOD CHANCE OF BEING ELECTED IF SUPPORTED BY USG, AFL-CIO AND US EMPLOYER GROUP.

C) ON BASIS OF LOUET'S REPORT, SABOURET HAS GIVEN UP IDEA OF ADVANCING CANDIDACY OF JACQUES DELORS OR LOUET.

D) BLANCHARD WILL BE SEEKING US (GOVERNMENT-WORKER-EMPLOYER) SUPPORT WHILE IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, AWARE THAT NO ONE CAN BE ELECTED ILO DG WITHOUT US TRIPARTITE SUPPORT OR (AT VERY LEAST) "SYMPATHETIC NEUTRALITY." ON PERSONAL BASIS, SABOURET WISHES HIM LUCK. CALL WAS FOR PURPOSE OF ALERTING WASHINGTON TO FACT THAT GOF, WHILE STILL UNDECIDED, IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO BLANCHARD'S CANDIDACY.

E) SABOURET FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT NEW DG SHOULD BE ELECTED IN MARCH, BECAUSE ANY OTHER SOLUTION (FOR EXAMPLE, ELECTION OF AMAR UNTIL 1975) WOULD PROLONG ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN TO DETRIMENT OF ILO MORALE AND OPERATIONS.

3. LABATT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR GOF'S INFORMAL VIEWS ON MATTER BUT CAUTIONED SABOURET THAT, LIKE PARIS, WASHINGTON PROBABLY HAS NOT YET TAKEN A POSITION ON WHICH CANDIDATES TO SUPPORT. LABATT ADDED THAT US DELEGATES NO DOUBT LOOKING FORWARD TO GB NOVEMBER MEETING FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER GB MEMBERS.

4. COMMENT: AS REPORTED IN REF A, GOF IS HESITANT ABOUT TAKING ANY INITIATIVE IN ILO WHICH WILL NOT BE ASSURED IN ADVANCE OF SUCCESS, WHICH IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE MEANS ASSURANCE OF US TRIPARTITE SUPPORT. OBVIOUS FROM FOREGOING THAT BLANCHARD, WHILE UNABLE TO CLAIM GOF BACKING, CAN REPRESENT GOF POSITION TOWARDS HIS CANDIDACY AS "SYMPATHETIC." EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF RESULTS OF BLANCHARD'S CONSULTATIONS IN US.

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DECONTROL 12/31/74.

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